

Amos steers Blues back on course!

TWO goals from Tony Amos — one an incredible effort after running half the length of the pitch — steered Wycombe Wanderers back on course after two successive defeats on Saturday at Champion Hill, Dulwich.

International Amos, who seems to make a habit of scoring spectacular goals, must now have secured himself a regular place in the side after being in and out for much of the season.

Although working hard, his presence was not felt in the first half but as long as he can find the net, Wanderers manager, Brian Lee will be well satisfied.

Wycombe's performance on Saturday still bore the resemblance of a side struggling to find it's best form. In a dour first half Wycombe found it hard to break through a tidy Dulwich Hamlet defence. But in turn Dulwich seldom looked like worrying a makeshift Wycombe rearguard.

Dave Bullock came into the side in place of Derek Gamblin at full back for his first league outing of the season while uncompromising Ian Rundle took over from injured John Delaney at centre back with Gerry Olson. Johnny Hutchinson replaced Alan Gane in midfield where he was partnered by returning Keith Jameson.

Jameson and Hutchinson were joined by Larry Pritchard and these three did much to swing things Wycombe's way in the second half.

But again, Wanderers looked weak up front. Amos was un-

Dulwich H. 0, Wycombe W. 2 Report by Stuart Earp

able to give the support needed to Searle while Mick Holifield, although a yard faster than the home defence, was seldom able to break through.

Once again, Keith Searle gave his opposing centre half a frustrating afternoon. Poor Peter Gaydon was outjumped time and again and it was the Wycombe centre forward who almost gave Holifield a goal after 11 minutes but Mick couldn't quite get the necessary touch to his long cross.

It was an isolated attack due to the over used whistle of referee D. A. Patten, who was determined to stamp his authority on the game early on. He kept it clean but as a result, there was precious little flowing football.

Amos volleyed the ball over the top after Searle had headed back Hutchinson's 23rd minute

corner but Wycombe lacked cohesion upfront. However, the passing in midfield showed a marked improvement over the Hendon defeat last Tuesday. Credit for that must go to Pritchard who looked a class above the 21 other players on the park.

With Pete Smith tidying up well in a sweeper role, Dulwich looked quite capable of holding the visiting front runners, who were confined to long range efforts for much of the first 45 minutes. Goalkeeper Geoff Parsons was rarely troubled.

But if Wanderers were struggling in attack, Dulwich were little better and their sole chance in the first half came from a goalmouth scramble, where Trevor Bladon had a split second chance to put his side one up. He took too long and the ball was cleared.

Apart from that, Wycombe's defence looked sound. Rundle, who came to Wycombe eight years ago as a centre half, was always strong in the tackle while Micky Cooper had his best game to date. Dave Bullock occasionally wanted too much time while Olson towered above nippy centre forward Mickey Pratt.

A minute before the interval, Pritchard almost gave Wycombe the lead. Latching onto a through ball, he ran wide, passed a defender and crashed in a shot from a narrow angle. The ball beat Parsons all the way but cannoned against the underside of the cross bar, came down just in front of the line and was gratefully booted away by full back Kenny Baker.

The warning had been given. After Searle had blasted one long range drive over the top, Amos put Wycombe ahead after 52 minutes. Pete Smith and Roy Drake were slow to clear the ball inside their own penalty area and Tony took advantage of their hesitancy to nip in and poke the ball past 'keeper Parsons to put the Blues ahead.

Dulwich were quick to reply and Bladon was not far off target when going up with Olson to Chris Gedney's cross, the ball ending in the top of the net. Then a strong drive from Bladon almost had Wycombe 'keeper John Maskell in difficulties.

Bladon shot strongly from the edge of the area but Maskell seemed to have gathered the ball safely. However it slipped from his hands and rolled towards the line and only a desperate dive prevented an equaliser.

Dulwich produced the best they could offer at this stage but they always wanted too much time to execute their intricate attacks and only Bladon showed any willingness to shoot. It was no surprise when the ineffective Charlie Pooley was replaced by substitute Graham Smith after 65 minutes but Smith could not make any impression on the game, which was slowly slipping away from the home side.

Maskell was well positioned to save Roy Drake's swerving shot after 71 minutes but a minute later Pritchard was only just off target at the other end. In looking for an equaliser, Dulwich left themselves exposed at the back and Wycombe, far

from satisfied with a one goal advantage, were beginning to exploit the gaps.

Hutchinson was only inches away after a good run into the Dulwich area and Wycombe generally looked far more likely to score in the second period, creating chances regularly.

After Searle had gone close again, Amos scored his amazing second goal.

In the 81st minute he collected the ball inside his own half. Support was thin upfront so he decided to go it alone. Slipping past two defenders, he won a tussle with Gaydon, side stepped the 'keeper and although two defenders desperately raced back to cover the line, Tony's shot eluded them both and rolled into the back of the net for an unbelievable goal. Small wonder he raised his hands aloft with a grin as wide as Loakes Park!

The only worry to Wanderers in the closing stages was an injury to John Maskell who fell badly after a challenge from Pratt. However, he was able to continue after treatment.

Dulwich tried desperately to get back into the match in the final minutes but their efforts were easily bottled up by the Wycombe defence.

Wanderers' task was made easier by the number of mistakes by the home side in the closing minutes. It was the Blues second double of the season, having beaten Dulwich 3-0 in the opening League encounter of the season at Loakes Park.

DULWICH HAMLET: G. Parsons, R. Brookes, K. Baker, D. Burke, P. Gaydon, P. Smith, R. Drake, C. Pooley (sub G. Smith 65 mins), M. Pratt, C. Gedney, T. Bladon.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell, M. Cooper, D. Bullock, I. Rundle, G. Olson, J. Hutchinson, M. Holifield, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, A. Amos, K. Jameson, sub A. Gane (not used).

Referee: D. A. Patten.
Half time: 0-0. **Goalscorers** — Wycombe: Amos (2) 52, 81.